MW 1/17/98 -1-

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1-13-98

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Dear Hal:

Just a few items I wanted to call to your attention. First, there's the enclosed column by Liz Smith (the Hollywood gossip columnist). Note the reference to the Noel Twyman book, "Bloody Treason" and the comments by Jack Valenti. I don't know which is worse: the comments by Twyman in his book or Valenti's comments here!

By the way in this very same column by Smith at the beginning there's a reference to a new movie, "Wag the Dog" which stars Robert Di Niro among others. The movie is about a (fictional) President facing a sex scandal charge and what he does to get out from under it all. Di Niro (who also co-produced the film) plays a rogue kind-of agent apparently close to the CIA and his "job" is to create a "diversion" so the American people won't have to concentrate on the shenanigans of the President. Di Niro's "brilliant" idea: he comes up with a fake war against Albania and hires a movie mogul producer to feed the

public a phony war with television images. The movie ends with a dead "hero" and a not-so-faked death of the movie producer (who threatens to reveal all after the fictional President wins the election).

This is probably what passes for "high culture" in Hollywood these days but there is one amusing line uttered by Di Niro in the movie I know you'll get a kick out of. It happens when Di Niro is trying to explain how easy it would be to put over a con job on the American public and get away with. Di Niro says "Look at the first draft of the Warren Report — they tried to pin it on a drunk driver." (I saw the movie & I was the only one in the audience who laughed out loud — probably because most didn't get it or many didn't even know what the Warren Report was all about).

So much for Hollywood and its shenanigans but speaking about shenanigans Harry Livingstone called me this past week-end. He had heard that I had written a highly critical report on the Twyman/Fetzer twin efforts. When I asked Harry if he was told about my critical review from Jerry Rose to whom I submitted it to, he said, no, — it was from Martin Shackelford, a researcher and writer. This may be true because I had recently written Martin and said I was going to do this so that is how Harry learned of it. Harry asked me to send a copy of what I had submitted. Livingstone said he was very angry at both Fetzer & Twyman (especially Twyman) and was going to call a national news conference in Washington "exposing" them. He used about 4 adjectives to describe them — none very friendly.

I also got a letter from Bill (of Trial). He wants me to call him — he says some things I requested of him I should clarify as to whether he knows of them. I'll call him very soon.

Regarding what I told Paul Haller about my medical problems: what I told Paul while I was in Dallas was that I had a heart problem but I don't recall if I told him that it concerned a damaged valve. Yes — I do have this but it is under my doctor's close monitoring and care. He's watching it carefully and has given me specific medication so I'm being very careful about watching especially my blood pressure. He's said frankly (& of course, I realize it: that it is damaged & what remedy there is so I have to be careful how I proceed).

Otherwise I feel in very good health & have no unusual problems. The only real exercise I get is walking (I try every day to do at least one-half hour but the weather lately has been terrible with continual downpours). And mentioning weather: from what I'm reading here your neck of the woods is suffering from below zero temperatures: is that true?

By the way as a final note Harrison Livingstone told me that Jerry Rose asked Martin Shackelford to write a review of the Twyman book & Martin does not buy into the Z-film alteration nonsense. And if Rose can ask Shackelford to do a piece it is very strong evidence Rose will publish my piece. Even Harry thought Rose would do my article & I told Harry that I don't agree with Livingstone's thesis at all & he knows I don't.

Well, we'll see what happens in the near future.

Best,

Hal Verb